

The Ontario Argus
County Official Paper

An Independent Newspaper

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G. K. Alken, Managing Editor

SUBSCRIPTION.....One Year, \$2.00

DO WE WANT \$100,000?

Do the people of Malheur County want the additional \$100,000 which the Highway Commission has offered them to be spent on the highways of the county west from Cairo?

If we do not want this money, it is certain that there are other counties that do, and the offer will not be permitted to stand for an indefinite time.

Furthermore since this money comes from the funds secured by bond sales of the state, which are financed by the auto licenses the acceptance of the offer means that just that much more of the auto licenses paid by the people of the county will be returned to this section.

It is certain something must be done about the road from Cairo to Harper. Given another winter such as the one just past and all that region will be practically isolated. All the money hitherto spent on the roads in that region will have been thrown away, the grade will be gone, as has the surface already and some day the county will have to start all over to rebuild the highway; while if the commission's offer is accepted it is probable that the entire road can be built on a permanent basis. The manner in which prices are declining justifies this belief.

The people three years ago voted bonds for the road from Vale west. Five years ago they voted a direct tax of \$10,000 from Vale west so that there is available \$40,000 now to match the state's offer. All that is needed is to secure the other \$60,000.

Where can this money be secured? Is it worth \$3,600 per year in interest to secure this highway right

through the center of the county? And when the road is built one half of the maintenance will be paid from state funds. Is this worth the price?

We believe it is, but it is up to the people to decide. Something must be done. Some definite action must be taken. We cannot sit idle and let the offer languish. We must act, but how? That is the question.

To get the matter before the people The Argus would like to give publicity to opinions of interested men, taxpayers, in the cities and towns, interested ranchers along the road who will be served, and any others.

If the highway commission would entertain a plan of deferred payments, say \$40,000 this year and \$15,000 for four years, from the road funds which are levied anyway; perhaps that would be the best plan. If not the only other alternative which suggests itself is a bond issue.

Which plan do you favor? On the front page of this issue is a coupon upon which these propositions are set forth. We would like to get an idea of the sentiment of our readers on this important proposition, and would appreciate a general expression from everyone. Just mark the ball -- all it to The Argus.

THE EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENT

In Portland roses grow everywhere not only in the parks and upon the lawns about the homes, but also along the parkways of many of the streets. Roses are common in Portland, so common that everyone may have them, and apparently everyone loves them.

As the result of this general diffusion of roses no one thinks of "stealing flowers" in Portland. Flowers are so common and the love of them has been so generously instilled by their presence everywhere that the people may plant them out on the parking strips and know that they will not be molested.

Contrast this picture with that which obtains in Ontario. Here there are few homes about which flowers are cultivated. In fact the home thus blessed is the exception rather than the rule; and those who do thus improve their homes cannot feel safe in their possession. Night after night of late some of the prettiest flower beds of the city have been raided by vandal hands. While this indicates a love of the beautiful it indicates no respect for the rights of others.

Mrs. R. L. Scott left Tuesday for Beulah where her husband preceded her to begin work on their ranch.

R. W. Atherton purchased a home from his father, Chas. Atherton, consisting of a house and five lots four blocks west of the west side school.

Mrs. A. S. Brown has as a guest this week her mother Mrs. Mary C. Arnold of Boise.

THE OPEN FORUM

This column is open to the people of Malheur County for an expression of their opinions upon matters of interest. The Argus assures no responsibility for the expressions herein contained, nor does the appearance of any statements here mean that it reflects in any degree the sentiments of the publisher. All personal abuse, or libelous matter will not be printed; and while correspondence of citizens will be welcome correspondents are urged to limit communications to not more than 400 words.—The Editor.

Downey, Ida. April 18, 1921.

Editor of Argus: The owners of land holding water rights controlled by the Power Co. may seem apathetic, but it is the apathy of despair. It seems to be the intention of the Power Co. to gain possession of all the land dependent upon them. The utilities commission utterly ignore the needs of the farmers. They must know they cannot support such expense if they know anything concerning existing conditions. Senator Borah stated in a speech in Congress that Power charges on the American side of Niagara Falls were almost double those of the Canadian side. Is it any wonder our farmers are leaving an interest-ridden country for one where laws are enforced with justice?

The Editor of the Argus speaks of a "fair and impartial valuation" as a means of lowering taxes. How may that be obtained? The writer owns a dry homestead which will not produce enough to feed a dozen hens, yet the assessor doubled the assessment last year notwithstanding protest. He had never seen the place nor asked for any information. If he had he gave it no consideration. It must be the object of the tax officials to drive settlers from Malheur Co., and they are making a success of it. Is Ontario keeping pace with Idaho towns in growth and building? Six percent taxes are not an active inducement to property owners.

A power Victim.

SAYS AGRICULTURE INADEQUATELY TAUGHT

The following item which appeared in a Portland paper was sent into The Argus with a request that it be printed:

Salem, Or., April 21—J. A. Churchill, superintendent of public instruction, is sending out a letter to county superintendents notifying them that in the May and June eighth grade examinations no examination will be given to pupils in the subject of agriculture. Churchill said that he is very interested in the subject of agriculture, but that little is accomplished as it is now taught, since the majority of teachers teaching the subject have had no preparation to teach it.

SCHOOLS FULFILLING PURPOSE IN TRAINING STUDENTS FOR LIFE WORK

Vocational Training Courses Popular With Pupils, Few of Whom Have Opportunity of Attending Colleges of Higher Education.

By J. M. McDonald, Supt. of Schools The public schools of this country, along with so many other fundamental institutions, are undergoing a process of change and adjustment. There is a feeling abroad in the land that our public schools must be more responsive to the changing demands that are being made of the boys and girls who complete the course leading to graduation. More and more, the business world is demanding that high school graduates be prepared to do something in particular when they finish their school work. We are beginning to insist that schools give young people practical as well as cultural training. It is argued that since over 90 percent of our high school graduates never finish a college or University course, the high schools of this country should pay less attention to preparing young people for college entrance, and pay more attention to fitting them to earn a living when their school work at home is finished.

The Ontario schools have been attempting, within the limits of the means at their disposal, to follow this general policy in so far as they can. We have not lost sight of the fact that cultural education is necessary. We require every student who graduates from our school to study English and Composition all four years of the course. We require that two years work in mathematics be completed; one year in American History and Civics; one year in Science. Other subjects, chiefly cultural in character are strongly recommended to our students.

In addition to courses of this type, however, we are offering courses which are very practical and vocational in character. When we remember that our high school is located at the extreme eastern edge of the state, in the largest community of any size in quite a large territory, we understand what an unusual responsibility is ours. There is no college or University located near enough to our community that many of our boys and girls may readily attend. Consequently the large majority of them must get all the schooling that they will ever receive, right in our local schools. For this reason we should all be doubly anxious to make our local schools as strong as we can afford.

There are several departments in our high school which are meeting in part, the demand for practical instruction. This year we will turn out a class of seven young women who have completed the course in Teacher Training. They will receive certificates to teach in any grade school in the state. They

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Nobody swatted the fly.
Cream was five cents a pint.
Cantaloupes were Muskmelons,
You never heard of a "tin lizzie."
Farmers came to town for their mail.

Nobody cared for the price of gasoline.
The butcher "threw in" a chunk of liver.

Then farming was a livelihood, now it's a business.
Then every farmer was for himself and some one else got his profit; now we have the Farm Bureau.
—Benton Co. F. B. News.

Mr. and Mrs. Omar Klum were Weiser visitors, Sunday, Mr. Klum going on to Huntington where he umpired the Weiser-Huntington baseball game that day.

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